



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

98

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,286	12/31/2001	Donna K. Hodges	36968/264416	7406

7590 05/19/2006  
BAMBI FAIVRE WALTERS  
P.O. BOX 5743  
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188

EXAMINER
----------

BOTTS, MICHAEL K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2176

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/029,286

**Applicant(s)**

HODGES ET AL.

**Examiner**

Michael K. Botts

**Art Unit**

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This document is the first Office Action on the merits. This action is responsive to the following communications: The Non-Provisional Application, which was filed on December 31, 2001.
2. Claims 1-20 have been examined, with claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 15, and 20 being the independent claims.
3. Claims 1-20 are rejected.

### ***Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-11 and 14-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sahota, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication, 2001/0056460 A1, published December 27, 2001, claiming priority to Provisional Application 60/199,686, filed April 24, 2000) [hereinafter "Sahota"].

Regarding **independent claim 1**, Sahota teaches:

*A method for providing a business engine using platform independent business rules, comprising:*

- providing a platform dependent business engine;*
- encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT") to obtain an XSLT business rule component comprising the platform independent business rules, the XSLT business rule component operative to perform logical manipulations based on the platform independent rules; and*
- coupling the XSLT business rule component with the platform dependent business engine to create the business engine using the platform independent business rules.*

(See, Sahota, figures 2A-2B, and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], and claims 41-50, teaching XSLT used within a "content converter" to map data into a variety of representations as a standard interface. See, particularly, Sahota, figure 2A and paragraphs [0066]-[0068].)

Regarding **dependent claim 2**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 1, further comprising:*

- providing an updated XSLT business rule component comprising updated platform independent business rules; and*

*loading the updated XSLT business rule component into the platform dependent business engine to obtain an updated business engine using the updated platform independent business rules.*

(See, Sahota, paragraph [0084], teaching the "syndication transformation manager" using XSLT and modification (updating) of the XSLT code.)

Regarding **dependent claim 3**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
employing an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition to facilitate coupling the XSLT business rule component with the platform dependent business engine.*

(See, Sahota, paragraphs [0059] and [0136], teaching the use of XML document type definitions (DTS's) for coupling with the XSLT.)

Regarding **independent claim 4**, Sahota teaches:

*A method of providing a plurality of business engines that include platform independent business rules, the method comprising:  
encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT") to obtain the platform independent business rules; and  
coupling the platform independent business rules with a plurality of platform dependent business engines using an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition to provide the plurality of business engines.*

Art Unit: 2176

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], and claims 41-50, teaching XSLT used with a plurality of platform dependent business engines using XML DTD's.)

Regarding **dependent claim 5**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 4, further comprising:*  
*providing updated platform independent business rules by updating the*  
*platform independent business rules using XSLT; and*  
*coupling the updated platform independent business rules with each of the*  
*plurality of platform dependent business engines to obtain an updated plurality of*  
*platform dependent business engines.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A and paragraph [0084], teaching the "syndication transformation manager" using XSLT and modification (updating) of the XSLT code.)

Regarding **independent claim 6**, Sahota teaches:

*A method for providing a common business service ("CBS") unit used in*  
*conjunction with an application program, the CBS unit using platform*  
*independent business rules, comprising:*  
*encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator*  
*("XSLT") to obtain an XSLT business rule component comprising the platform*  
*independent business rules, the XSLT business rule component operative to*  
*perform logical manipulations based on the platform independent business rules;*

Art Unit: 2176

*providing a platform specific CBS unit; and*  
*coupling the XSLT business rule component with the CBS unit to obtain*  
*the CBS unit using the platform independent business rules.*

(It is noted that a common business service (CBS) is disclosed as the XSLT business rule component claimed. See, disclosure, page 3, lines 23-28.

See, Sahota, paragraphs [0054]-[0055], teaching the repository 205 to store “rules and logic” which may be accessed on demand, and which is therefore a common business service and is taught to be used with an XSLT business rule component.)

Regarding **dependent claim 7**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 6, further comprising:*  
*providing an updated XSLT business rule component comprising updated*  
*platform independent business rules by updating the platform independent*  
*business rules using XSLT; and*  
*coupling the CBS unit with the updated XSLT business rule component to*  
*obtain an updated CBS unit using the updated platform independent business*  
*rules.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A and paragraph [0084], teaching the “syndication transformation manager” using XSLT and modification (updating) of the XSLT code.)

Art Unit: 2176

Regarding **dependent claim 8**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 6, wherein an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition is used to couple the XSLT business rule component and the CBS unit.*

(See, Sahota, paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching the invention of claim 6 using and XML DTD.)

Regarding **independent claim 9**, Sahota teaches:

*A method for manipulating input data and providing output data, comprising:*

*encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT") to obtain a set of XSLT business rules;*

*coupling the set of XSLT business rules with a platform dependent business engine to obtain an XSLT business engine; and*

*using the XSLT business engine to:*

*receive the input data from a source;*

*perform a logical manipulation of the input data based on the XSLT business rules; and*

*provide the output data to the source.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching the XSLT business rules, coupling the XSLT business rules to a platform dependent business engine to obtain an XSLT business



Art Unit: 2176

engine and using the XSLT business engine to receive input, perform manipulations of the input data based on the business rules, and provide output data.)

Regarding **dependent claim 10**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 9, further comprising:*

*providing updated XSLT business rules by updating the set of XSLT business rules using XSLT; and*

*updating the XSLT business engine by coupling the updated XSLT business rules with the platform dependent business engine.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A and paragraph [0084], teaching the "syndication transformation manager" using XSLT and modification (updating) of the XSLT code.)

Regarding **dependent claim 11**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 9, wherein a call to a remote database is made as a result of the logical manipulation.*

(See, Sahota, paragraph [0136]-[0142], teaching access to remote databases.)

Regarding **dependent claim 14**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 9, further comprising:*

*using an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition to facilitate coupling of the set of XSLT business rules with the platform dependent business engine.*

Art Unit: 2176

(See, Sahota, paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching the invention of claim 9 using and XML DTD.)

Regarding **independent claim 15**, Sahota teaches:

*A method for performing a task requested by an application program comprising:*

- encoding a set of business rules in extensible style language translator ("XSLT") to obtain platform independent business rules;*
- coupling the platform independent business rules with a platform dependent common business service ("CBS") unit to obtain an XSLT CBS unit;*
- and*
- using the XSLT CBS unit to:*
  - receive input data from the application program;*
  - perform a logical manipulation of the input data based on the platform independent business rules; and*
  - provide output data based on the logical manipulation.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching the XSLT business rules, coupling the XSLT business rules to a platform dependent business engine to obtain an XSLT business engine and using the XSLT business engine to receive input, perform manipulations of the input data based on the business rules, and provide output data.)

Art Unit: 2176

Regarding **dependent claim 16**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 15, further comprising:*

*providing updated platform independent business rules by updating the platform independent business rules using XSLT; and*

*coupling the CBS unit with the updated platform independent business rules to obtain an updated CBS unit.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching updating the XSLT business rules by updating the XSLT, coupling the XSLT business rules the CBS on the independent client.)

Regarding **dependent claim 17**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 15, further comprising:*

*using an extensible markup language ("XML") document type definition to facilitate coupling the platform independent business rules with the platform dependent CBS unit.*

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142], teaching using XML for coupling.)

Regarding **dependent claim 18**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 15, wherein the output response is provided to the application program.*

Art Unit: 2176

(See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142].)

Regarding **dependent claim 19**, Sahota teaches:

*The method of claim 15, wherein the output response is a call to another software unit.*

(See, Sahota, paragraph [0136]-[0142], teaching access to remote databases which would be a "software unit.")

Regarding **independent claim 20**, Sahota teaches:

*A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions comprising:*

*a set of business rules encoded in extensible style language translator ("XSLT"), wherein the encoded set of business rules can be adaptively coupled with a platform dependent business engine using a document type definition to provide a platform dependent business engine having behavior based on the set of business rules encoded in XSLT.*

(Claim 20 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.)

5. It is noted that any citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to

Art Unit: 2176

be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art.

See, MPEP 2123.

### ***Claims Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 12 and 13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sahota, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication, 2001/0056460 A1, published December 27, 2001, claiming priority to Provisional Application 60/199,686, filed April 24, 2000) [hereinafter "Sahota"], as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Lipkin, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication, 2002/0049788 A1, filed January 12, 2001, and claiming priority to Provisional Application 60/176,450, filed January 14, 2000) [hereinafter "Lipkin"].

Regarding **dependent claim 12**, Sahota in view of Lipkin teaches:

*The method of claim 9, wherein a call to another business engine is made as a result of the logical manipulation.*

Art Unit: 2176

(Sahota teaches the invention claimed in claim 9, and teaches a call to another business engine. See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142]. Sahota does not expressly teach that the call is made as a result of logical manipulation.

Lipkin teaches a separate "meta-data store" to hold information used to validate input data. See, Lipkin, paragraphs [0232]-[0243]. Lipkin teaches to store the data separately from the execution data of the program, and Sahota teaches to call for update information. Sahota and Lipkin are combinable in that they are in the same art of integrating disparate platforms and software applications.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the calling access function of Sahota with the separate storage access function of Lipkin.

The suggestion or motivation to combine the references is for the obvious advantage of accessing separately stored data, the difference between the authorities being merely limited to whether the data was stored on the same processor, Lipkin, or on a separate processor, Sahota.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Sahota and Lipkin to result in the invention specified in claim 12.)

Regarding **dependent claim 13**, Sahota in view of Lipkin teaches:

*The method of claim 9, wherein when the logical manipulation comprises a validation of the input data.*

(Sahota teaches the invention claimed in claim 9, and teaches a call to another business engine. See, Sahota, figure 2A-2B and paragraphs [0024]-[0142], particularly [0054]-[0069], [0082]-[0084], and [0136]-[0142]. Sahota does not expressly teach that the call is made as a result of logical manipulation.

Lipkin teaches a separate "meta-data store" to hold information used to validate input data. See, Lipkin, paragraphs [0232]-[0243]. Lipkin teaches to store the data separately from the execution data of the program, and Sahota teaches to call for update information. Sahota and Lipkin are combinable in that they are in the same art of integrating disparate platforms and software applications.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the calling access function of Sahota with the separate storage access function of Lipkin.

The suggestion or motivation to combine the references is for the obvious advantage of accessing separately stored data, the difference between the authorities being merely limited to whether the data was stored on the same processor, Lipkin, or on a separate processor, Sahota.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Sahota and Lipkin to result in the invention specified in claim 12.)

7. It is noted that any citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. See, MPEP 2123.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The following prior art is made of record and not relied upon that is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure:

Kuznetsov (U.S. Patent 6,772,413 B2).

Yassin, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,829,745 B2).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael K. Botts whose telephone number is 571-272-5533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00-4:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for



Art Unit: 2176

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

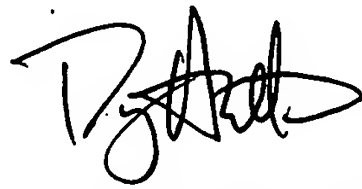
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MKB/mkb



**DOUG HUTTON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
TECH CENTER 2100**